

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

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R 171640Z MAR 75

FM USDEL SALT TWO GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2489

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EXDIS/SALT

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SPECAT EXCLUSIVE FOR SECDEF

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PARM

SUBJ: SALT--DRAFTING GROUP MEETING, MARCH 17, 1975

(SALT TWO-563)

1. IN THREE-HOUR SESSION MARCH 17 DRAFTING GROUP (KLOSSON, EARLE, GRAHAM, RAMEE, AND OBOLENSKY FOR US; KARPOV, SMOLIN, TERENTLEV, KRUTSKIKH, AND CHURKIN FOR USSR) DISCUSSED TITLE, PREAMBLES, ARTICLE I AND US ARTICLE II OF DRAFT AGREEMENTS.

2. SOVIETS ARGUED FOR INCLUSION IN PREAMBLE OF REFERENCE TO OCTOBER 1977 DURATION OF INTERIM AGREEMENT ON BASIS OF "CONTINUITY", AND ALSO URGED INCLUSION OF REFERENCE TO PREVENTION OF NUCLEAR WAR AGREEMENT. AFTER EXTENDED DISCUSSION, HOWEVER, SOVIETS INDICATED WILLINGNESS TO CONSIDER EXPLICIT REFERENCE TO ABM TREATY (WHICH IS ABSENT FROM SOVIET DRAFT) AND ACCEPTED SOMEWHAT DILUTED REFERENCE TO GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT. TOWARD END OF DISCUSSION SOVIETS ALSO INDICATED SOME FLEXIBILITY IN REFERENCE TO NEGOTIATIONS ON FURTHER LIMITATIONS AND REDUCTIONS "IN THE NEAR FUTURE."

3. DRAFTING GROUP AGREED THAT ARTICLE I, AS INTRODUCTION TO SUBSEQUENT OPERATIVE PROVISIONS, COULD MORE FRUITFULLY BE

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DISCUSSED AFTER CONSIDERATION OF OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ARTICLES.

4. SOVIETS PREFERRED TO DEFER CONSIDERATION OF US ARTICLE II (DEFINITIONS) UNTIL GENERALS ROWNY AND TRUSOV HAD DISCUSSED SUBSTANTIVE ASPECTS THEREOF. IN RESPONSE KLOSSON QUERY, KARPOV SAID SOVIETS DID NOT OBJECT TO IDEA OF DEFINITIONS, BUT WANTED THEM OUTSIDE AGREEMENT IN AGREED INTERPRETATION.

5. NEXT MEETING WILL BE WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19, TO REVIEW ISSUES IN PREAMBLE AND TO ADDRESS US DRAFT ARTICLE III AND SOVIET DRAFT ARTICLE II (SYSTEMS LIMITED UNDER 2400 AGGREGATE). JOHNSON

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NNN

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